

**TOWN OF HAMILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 5, 2014**

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Wenham Regional High School at 8:21 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, 2014 with Marc Johnson, Jeff Hubbard, Scott Maddern, David Neill and Jennifer Scuteri present. Town Manager Michael Lombardo, and Finance & Advisory Committee Chair John McWane also present.

Call to order

Marc Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:21 a.m.

Discussion on BOS recommendation on CPC budget article

The Board discussed CPC budget articles and mentioned that the Town had reversionary rights to American Legion building.

Scott Maddern moved that the Board of Selectmen make a favorable recommendation on **ARTICLE 2014/4 2-8** *Community Preservation Budget*. David Neill seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Discussion on Finance & Advisory Committee's proposed amendment motion to HWRSD budget warrant article

Discussion ensued with Finance and Advisory Committee Chair John McWane about his Committee's proposed amendment motion to **ARTICLE 2014/4 2-2** *General Town Appropriations* where a HOLD would be put on \$16,302,008 for Hamilton Wenham Regional School District. This was based on Fin Com's recent 4-1 vote to support a 4% versus 4.6% increase in the HWRSD budget (i.e., \$16,116,646).

Discussion amongst Board members was to support the school budget as presented by school administration to foster transparency and communication about school budget. Hubbard agreed about needing to foster transparency and wanted to be sure that the Board did not send any message that encouraged the HWRSD to hesitate giving back any funds that may be due the town. Although some Selectmen thought the Fin Com's intent to encourage HWRSD to find efficiencies in its budget first before seeking a higher budget amount to support school system should be discussed after ATM to accurately represent taxpayer interest. After today's discussion, the Board decided not to change its position to support the \$16,302,008 proposed school budget for FY'15.

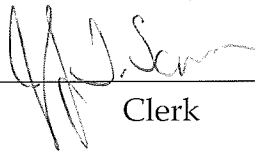
Also noted was that the Fin Com plans to send a letter to Wenham officials and HW School Committee recommending the three entities go back to the practice of discussing the school budget in detail during the budget process.

In addition, the Board discussed whether or not there should be a HOLD in **ARTICLE 2014/4 1-3 Article for Consent Motion** that includes **ARTICLE 2014/4 3-1 Citizens' Petition Site Plan Review to Planning Board**.

Maddern moved to adjourn at 8:36 a.m. Jennifer Scuteri seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____



Clerk